

# Briefing to Parties and observer States on the programme budget for 2022–2023 Biennium

# Summary of questions from Parties and responses from the UNFCCC secretariat

(ver. of 8 April 2021)

On 24 March 2021 (16:00–18:00 hrs Central European Time) and 25 March 2021 (08:00–10:00 hrs Central European Time), the SBI Chair convened virtual Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions with Parties and observer States on the programme budget for 2022–2023. The two sessions followed a similar format and were scheduled to accommodate different time zones.

In the lead up to the live Q&A sessions, briefing material, including a presentation on the programme budget for 2022–2023, was shared by the secretariat on the <u>UNFCCC budget</u> <u>web page</u>. Parties and observer States were notified and encouraged to access the material and submit any questions they may have in advance of the live Q&A sessions.

Below is a compilation of the questions received (prior to and during the Q&A sessions) and the corresponding responses provided by the UNFCCC secretariat organized by theme:

- I. Budget context and COVID-19
- II. Budget process and methodology
- III. Budget numbers
  - Integrated budget
  - Core and supplementary
  - CDM and ITL
  - Other sources
- IV. Budget approval process
- V. Budget contributions and scale of assessments

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# I. Budget context and COVID-19

### 1. Questions:

- a) All meetings (including sessions) during the COVID-19 pandemic have not necessarily been held in-person, which means some of them could be held virtually going forward, if appropriate. Replacing in-person meetings with online ones could contribute to saving costs, as well as reducing carbon footprint. This practice should continue under the UNFCCC, including after the pandemic. How has the secretariat reflected such lessons to the formulation of the budget for the next biennium? (Slide 3)
- b) Were there savings in 2020 due to the shift from in-person to virtual meetings? (Slide 3)
- c) The 2022-2023 budget takes into consideration the specific mandates that must be covered by the UNFCCC and its different bodies. Are there also plans to monitor the economic challenges that some Parties may be facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic since monetary constraints could become a challenge, especially if contributions of Member States would increase? (Slide 6)

# Response from the secretariat:

An assumption of the secretariat in developing the budget as shared during the 2020 November briefing is that the COVID-19 pandemic will be under control during 2022-2023 and that meetings will be conducted mostly in-person and virtually where feasible. As such, staff travel was reduced by 25% in comparison to the previous biennium budget to reflect participation in virtual meetings. In addition, some meetings, such as intersessional meetings of the Bureau, are expected to be held in virtual format. Taking into account feedback from constituted bodies and Parties on the desirability of inperson meetings and bearing in mind the trajectory of global vaccinations, we are hopeful to have in-person meetings in 2022-2023.

There were no actual savings in 2020 due to the shift from in-person to virtual meetings. This is due to the fact that the 2020-2021 core budget is not fully funded. The actual contributions received are first and foremost utilised to cover budgeted activities not necessarily related to travel. Consequently, actual expenditures that are less than budgeted for travel do not materialize in savings.

The secretariat is acutely aware of the financial constraints imposed by the pandemic and has therefore ensured that the 2022-2023 proposed budget is based on a careful and responsible reflection of such a reality. The Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) and Zero Real Growth (ZRG) budgets proposed will therefore not represent an increase in member state contributions beyond the statutory and unavoidable costs and the impact of changes in the scale of assessment.

# II. Budget process and methodology

# 2. Questions:

- a) Are preparations for the new activities/demands in 2022-2023 (GST, ETF, Doha, Article 6) included in the ZNG/ZRG? (Slide 4)
- b) Does the proposed budget include any capacities/resources for the forward-looking development of the Paris Agreement-related registry infrastructure, including for mandates expected at COP 26? (Slide 4)

### Response from the secretariat:

Yes, activities related to the new and potentially emerging demands (GST, ETF, Doha and Article 6) are reflected in ZNG/ZRG across categories 1-4. In this regard, it should be noted that pending any further guidance from Parties, some of the estimates may need to be revised. Development of Paris Agreement-related registry infrastructure is included under category 3 to be funded from supplementary resources, except for Article 6 systems infrastructures. Development of the prototypes for the NDC and the adaptation communications was already undertaken with supplementary resources in the current biennium (2020-2021) and any further development following considerations by Parties would be covered by further allocations from supplementary resources in 2022-2023.

# 3. Questions:

- a) What is meant by the new secretariat structure is "fit for purpose"? (Slide 6)
- b) Where have there been efficiency gains in the new secretariat structure in the budget for the current biennium, and where can we expect to see further efficiency gains in the next biennium's budget? (Slide 6)

## Response from the secretariat:

Fit for purpose means that the current structure of the secretariat with its better integrated programmatic and operational divisions, as well as two cross-cutting divisions, is designed to ensure effective and efficient support to the Parties in the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

With regard to efficiency gains, the current budget 2020-2021 already incorporates enhanced functioning of the new structure reflecting the new divisions in an integrated and coordinated manner. For example, there have been efficiencies that were gained by clustering Administrative Services, Human Resources and Information Communication and Technology functions. This clustering of functions allowed the establishment of a dedicated division for a central and critical aspect of the secretariat which is Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress. In addition, to ensure broad engagement by all stakeholders towards effective climate action, the division of Communication and Engagement was made possible.

The implementation of the new structure allowed a more integrated clustering of similar functions such as climate finance, communications, knowledge management, engagement and administrative support to divisions.

The monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing efficiency and effectiveness of the new structure will be part of the Organizational Development and Oversight (ODO) function that is being established. The <u>final report of Fitch Consulting</u> is now available on the website and provides further information and suggestions on how to take this work forward in the future.

4. Question: The presentation suggests that activities related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement are included in category 3, which is logical as it avoids prejudging the outcomes of the negotiations. However, does the secretariat plan to adjust the budget allocation between category 2 and 3 once the modalities for Article 6 of the PA are adopted at COP 26? (Slide 7)

# Response from the secretariat:

The budget related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement consists mainly of category 2 and some category 3 activities. These are currently proposed to be funded from supplementary resources. Depending on the outcomes of the negotiations, the requirements for Article 6 activities will need to be revised to support the infrastructure and the processes that will be required.

# 5. <u>Question:</u> Is there a scenario in which both ZNG and the methodology are maintained? (Slide 9)

# Response from the secretariat:

As per the budget methodology, category 1 (essential) and 2 (long-term/recurring) activities are to be funded ideally from core resources. Given that the resource estimations for categories 1 and 2 activities exceed the ZRG and ZNG core budget levels, parts of category 2 activities need to be funded from supplementary resources. In applying the established budget methodology, the following principles were applied:

- (a) Ensuring balance across different thematic areas (adaptation, mitigation, support, transparency, etc.);
- (b) Keeping anchors (staff) for critical workstreams as core resources;
- (c) Broadly keeping the ratio between staff and non-staff costs;
- (d) Due consideration of all required work regardless of the date of adoption and overarching instrument, to ensure consistency in budgeting for similar activities.

# III. Budget numbers

# **Total integrated budget**

### 6. Question:

- a) Could the secretariat provide a breakdown of the total number of required posts per staff category (P-2, P-3, D-1, etc.), as well as the current level of vacant posts within the secretariat (per post category) and unit? (Slide 11)
- b) At the November briefing, the secretariat mentioned that a consultancy had been retained to help with the recruitment of the Organizational Development and Oversight (ODO) Chief. Are there any updates?

# Response from the secretariat

We will continue to provide full and detailed staffing information in the formal budget document for 2022-2023, which will be published in April 2021 for consideration by the SBI. A report on the current staffing of all posts is included in the SBI document on 2020-2021 budget performance as at 31 December 2020, which also will be published within the next weeks.

We are currently in the process of recruiting more than 60 posts at all levels. For senior level posts (P5 and higher), including the post of chief of ODO, we are being supported by the Egon Zehnder consultancy, which has supported recruitment for other UN agencies. We have finalised shortlisting for the ODO post and will interview soon. We expect to have a person on board and operationalise ODO within the next months.

# **Core and supplementary**

7. <u>Question:</u> Could the secretariat provide the full list of activities sorted per division/appropriation line (incl. estimated cost per activity) by category (1,2,3,4), scenario (ZNG, ZRG) and per funding source? (Slide 7)

## Response from the secretariat:

In the interest of transparency and as in the past biennia, we continue to share, in the work programme addendum to the budget document, the <u>results-based budgeting</u> <u>framework with expected results and outputs</u> which constitute activities per objective for each division and funding source.

The addendum will be published together with the main budget document in April 2021 for consideration by the SBI.

### 8. Questions:

- a) Is the ZRG budget equivalent to ZNG +4.4%? If so, could the secretariat provide an explanation on the <u>calculations used to arrive at ZNG plus 4,4%</u> as the zero real growth scenario, including a specification of the statutory and other unavoidable costs? (Slide 9)
- b) Which activities are covered in the 4.4%? (Slide 9)

# Response from the secretariat:

Yes, ZRG is equivalent to ZNG +4.4% and this increase represents the statutory and unavoidable cost increases.

UNFCCC follows and applies the UN common system salaries and entitlements as decided by the UN General Assembly. The UN salary scale is revised regularly by the International Civil Service Commission to adjust for changes in purchasing power with the latest revision effective 1 January 2020 (<a href="https://icsc.un.org/Home/GetDataFile/6067">https://icsc.un.org/Home/GetDataFile/6067</a>).

Statutory increases are those that result from revised UN salary scale, as well as related to staff entitlements. For the next biennium, while maintaining the same number of core posts as in the current biennium, these statutory increases result in an overall increase of 3.8% for the core budget.

Furthermore, we have unavoidable cost increases, which for next biennium relate to increased costs for common services for the UN campus in Bonn, which mainly cover increased security arrangements for the new building.

The government of Germany has generously provided funding to support the secretariat to furnish, as well as move into the new building. However, the increased annual common services costs for the premises must be borne by all UN entities in Bonn.

9. Questions: Which category 2 activities are to be funded by supplementary resources in both the ZNG and ZRG core budget scenarios (EUR 20,9 million) similar to slide 18, which specifies the difference between ZNG and ZRG (EUR 2,6 million) and specify the programme in which each activity is included?

# Response from the secretariat:

Such a detailed breakdown of the category 2 requirements to be funded by supplementary is currently being finalized and will be included in the programme budget document for 2022-2023.

In summary, the category 2 requirements which need to be funded from supplementary in ZRG and ZNG are across the following objectives:

Category 2 requirements to be funded from supplementary per objective	Preliminary budget requirements incl. PSC (EUR million)
Intergovernmental Engagement	3.3
Intergovernmental Processes	9.5
Constituted bodies	4.6
Enhance engagement	3.0
Oversight and management	0.5
Total	20.9

# 10. <u>Question:</u> How would a ZRG and a ZNG scenario for the core and supplementary budget look like? (Slide 10)

# Response from the secretariat:

With reference to slide 13 for the core and supplementary budget for ZRG and ZNG, it is important to note that there is only <u>one</u> integrated budget scenario for the secretariat. The two zero-growth scenarios represent activities to be funded from core versus supplementary. If less is covered from core as in ZNG, then more needs to be covered from supplementary and vice versa. For the other funding sources, there is only one budget scenario.

# 11. <u>Question:</u> What is included under <u>secretariat-wide costs</u> and why is an increase required?

# Response from the secretariat:

Secretariat-wide operating costs are pooled costs of staff and facilities. These include costs for on-boarding of newly recruited core staff and the UNFCCC contribution to the common services budget of the UN Bonn premises. The increase largely relates to security enhancements for the UN Bonn premises in relation to the new building (refer to response above to the question related to slide 9).

# 12. <u>Question:</u> Why is there a need for an increase in the budget of the cross-cutting divisions, especially since the structure was assessed as fit for purpose? (Slide 16)

### Response from the secretariat:

The cross-cutting divisions (Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress as well as Communications and Engagement) are integral parts of the secretariat structure as introduced in the 2020-2021 budget and as assessed to be fit for purpose.

Neither the ZRG nor the ZNG result in any overall increase in core staff posts. Compared to the re-allocated 2020-2021 budget, ISCP has a small increase in the ZRG scenario as a result of statutory increases plus a minor adjustment of one post in ISCP (adding a post to support external relations in exchange for a post in AS/HR/ICT). The increase for C&E in ZRG is purely from statutory increases.

- 13. <u>Question:</u> Under ZRG scenario, 52.4% of total budget would come from supplementary funding. Such a distribution seems to risk inadequate resourcing of institutions and processes under the UNFCCC.
  - a) On which basis is such a decision made and is it based on realistic financial planning? Have risks of insufficient funding through supplementary resources been taken into account? (Slide 17)
  - b) How does the proposed 2022-2023 distribution of core vs. supplementary compare to 2020-2021? (Slide 17)
  - c) How have outstanding contributions affected the activities of the secretariat and how long is the current situation sustainable? (Slide 17)

## Response from the secretariat:

In the ZRG scenario, the core budget represents 35% of the total integrated budget and supplementary 38% (see slide 11). In 2020-2021, these proportions were very similar – 35% from core and 35% from supplementary.

Slide 17 focuses on the split between core and supplementary only, not taking into account other funding sources. The budget methodology foresees that category 1 and 2 activities ideally should be core funded as they are of utmost importance for the process, while category 3 and 4 activities need to be supplementary funded. However, as described, we propose to not fund all category 2 activities from core.

The proposed 2022-2023 distribution of core vs. supplementary is similar to the 2020-2021 distribution, which was <u>presented to Parties in June 2020</u> (see slide 8).

A greater share of core in the total budget is very desirable. If all category 1 and 2 activities were funded from core then the proportionality between core and supplementary would be 64% core versus 36% supplementary, and core would represent 47% of the total integrated budget (compared to 35% in the proposed ZRG).

The budget is based on realistic financial planning and the budget methodology and takes into account the underlying economic constraints of Parties.

Yes, there is a risk of inadequate funding especially for supplementary activities.

Insufficient funding results in the secretariat not being able to comprehensively deliver on the work programme. Risks of insufficient supplementary funding are being addressed when setting priorities for fundraising and for allocation of unearmarked supplementary contributions.

As mitigation measures for outstanding core contributions the secretariat in the past has increased outreach to Parties, suggested payment plans and also delayed some core activities if possible.

Regarding core outstanding contributions and how long the situation will remain sustainable, the secretariat is constantly monitoring the liquidity situation of the core fund and through regular outreach to Parties are addressing all outstanding contributions. In the past years, we have been seeing liquidity in core for three to six. However, a liquidity for ten to twelve months as well as receiving a higher level of contributions every year is very desirable to ensure that the secretariat can deliver on the work programme.

14. <u>Question:</u> We see transparency as one of the core functions of the secretariat, could you provide an explanation for why it looks as if it is one of the divisions that has some of the lowest percentages of core funding?

## Response from the secretariat:

In the proposed ZRG budget for 2022-2023, the Transparency division receives 20% of the core budget which is the largest portion compared to the other divisions. For example, the Transparency division receives the same amount as Adaptation and Means of Implementation divisions combined. This underlines the priority Parties have given Transparency in the past and its high share of recurring and long-term activities. The proportion Transparency receives from Core in the ZRG budget for 2022-2023 has not changed compared to 2020-2021.

15. <u>Question:</u> For each Constituted Body, the travel and logistics of one meeting are funded from supplementary resources between the ZNG and ZRG but in the case of the SCF and TEC, their support is also funded from supplementary resources. Why is there such a different approach between the SCF and TEC and the other Constituted Bodies? (Slide 18)

# Response from the secretariat:

As for constituted bodies that are not meeting in conjunction with sessions, three out of four mandated regular meetings are covered in core for ZRG and two out of four meetings are covered in ZNG. Parts of their recurring/long-term activities of their workplans are to be funded from supplementary in ZRG. For the SCF and the TEC, additional recurring/long term activities of their workplans are to be funded from supplementary in ZNG. The difference relates to the extent each body has recurring/long term elements in its workplan and the need to ensure balance of category 2 activities to be funded from supplementary not only from constituted bodies but also intergovernmental processes, data etc.

16. <u>Question:</u> Why are travel costs and additional meetings considered unavoidable costs that need to be included in the core ZRG - are these category 1 activities? How were the costs estimated? Could you provide some data of the resources used for this purpose during this biennium?

### Response from the secretariat:

The activities listed on slide 18 do not represent unavoidable costs, instead these are the activities which the secretariat proposes to not fund from core in ZNG in order to absorb the increases of statutory and unavoidable costs and to match the exact same core budget amount in ZNG as approved for 2020-2021.

17. Question: Based on the totals for core and supplementary in 2022-2023 (EUR 130,9 million) and 2020-2021 (EUR 120,2 million), there is an increase of EUR 10 million. Could the secretariat provide further information of what accounts for this increase and how these additional activities are categorized (1, 2, 3, 4)? (Slide 19)

# Response from the secretariat:

Indeed, there is an increase of EUR 10 million in the combined core and supplementary compared to the previous biennium. About EUR 3.6 million of this increase relates to the statutory and unavoidable cost increases in core (EUR 2.6 million) and supplementary (EUR 1 million). The remaining increase in the supplementary part of the budget relates to the following five main areas:

- 1. Supporting the enhanced transparency framework, which is becoming fully operational in 2022 (Transparency);
- 2. Supporting the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and its constituted body, which has become fully operational in 2020 (Adaptation);
- 3. Supporting activities related to Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term low emission development strategies (Mitigation);
- 4. Supporting Action for Climate Empowerment and gender, supporting the climate champions' work programme as well as supporting multilingual communications, enhance website, mobile app and digital communication tools (C&E);
- 5. Enhancing and modernizing platforms, strengthening security of infrastructure and platforms, and improving virtual conferencing capability and capacity (ICT).

### **CDM** and ITL

18. <u>Question:</u> The presentation shows that 78 posts are included under the <u>CDM</u>
<u>MAP</u> and 3 posts under Jl. Both market-based mechanisms are legal under the
Doha Amendment to the Kyoto protocol, which concluded in 2020. Why are these
included in the budget for the next biennium including the legality for doing so?

### Response from the secretariat:

# CMP guidance in relation to the operation of the CDM trust fund

 Regarding the CDM, the CMP through its decisions expects the CDM to operate until at least the end of 2023 or 2024 to ensure operation through the end of the Kyoto Protocol true-period, and therefore, this has been included in the 2022- 2023 budget period. Specifically, at the request of the CMP, the CDM Executive Board and the secretariat presented a comprehensive report to CMP.15 in Madrid on the financial situation of the CDM and the foreseen budgets for activities until the end of 2023.

# CMP guidance in relation to funds for joint implementation

 Regarding JI, the CMP requested the JISC to keep the JI management plan under review and to make adjustments as necessary to continue ensuring the efficient, costeffective and transparent functioning of the JISC. The CMP has asked the JISC to ensure sufficient infrastructure and capacity for the mechanism's use by Parties and ensure adequate functioning through the end of the Kyoto Protocol true-up period. In response to the CMP requests, the JISC has been maintaining a low level of operations in accordance with its management plans. 19. <u>Question:</u> While we appreciate seeing a decrease in the proposed ITL budget compared to the current biennium, could we request for a detailed breakdown of tasks and cost in the remaining time for the true-up of the second commitment period? (Slide 14)

### Response from the secretariat:

The requested details on tasks and costs in the ITL budget will be provided in the separate ITL budget document (addendum 2 to the proposed budget for the biennium 2022-2023). The budget document and its addenda will be published soon as official documents for consideration by the SBI.

20. <u>Question:</u> Could the secretariat provide additional information on the current spending in this biennium (2020/2021) and the present financial status of the Trust Fund for the ITL? (Slide 14)

# Response from the secretariat:

The financial status of the Trust Fund for the ITL and details on the budget performance will be presented in the budget performance report as at 31 December 2020, which will be published within the coming weeks.

## Other sources

21. <u>Question:</u> Can we have some further detail on the 106 'overhead and cost recovery' posts?

# Response from the secretariat:

In accordance with the financial procedures (contained in the annex to decision 15/CP.1), the budget includes a 13 per cent provision to cover administrative overhead costs. Administrative services of the secretariat funded from the overheads applied to all activities under UNFCCC trust funds. Those activities cover the financial management of the secretariat's budgets, the procurement of goods and services, the arrangements for the travel of staff and participants, and the recruitment and administration of staff and consultants. The Administrative Services (AS) and Human Resources (HR) sub-divisions provide key management support in programme planning, results-based budgeting and reporting on programme and budget performance, including all tasks related to the management of the premises of the secretariat. The greatest portion of the overhead funds is used for the services provided by AS/HR and by Programme Administrative Teams. The remainder covers the cost of internal and external audits, payroll, investment and treasury services, staff training and development, services related to the administration of justice and other United Nations support services that are not available in the secretariat and contributes to covering the costs of sharing common services and premises with other United Nations organizations in Bonn, Germany. The total number of posts planned to be funded from the overhead derived from programme support cost in 2022–2023 is 76.

<u>Cost recovery</u>: The ICT sub-division provides a number of services for other divisions and sub-divisions, including ICT services for all secretariat staff and delivering specific IT services that enable other divisions to implement their work programmes (e.g., databases and portals). Internal funding mechanisms are in place to ensure that the costs for the above services are recovered from the relevant budgets (core and noncore) of the other divisions/sub-divisions. A total of 30 ICT positions are budgeted in the biennium 2022–2023 for funding via the cost recovery mechanisms.

# IV. Budget approval process

22. Question: It is very crucial for Parties to approve the programme budget for 2022-2023 by the end of this year in order to implement mandates of the Convention, KP and Paris Agreement from 2022 onward. Taking the current situation with COVID-19 into consideration, we think in-person meetings are not the only option to adopt the programme budget. The budget process should prepare for all eventualities under the current situation with COVID-19. What does the secretariat think about online adoption as was done by UNEA in February 2021 for its next biennium budget? (Slide 20)

# Response from the secretariat:

Following the Bureau principle of maximizing progress and minimizing delays, which has guided the work under the UNFCCC during the pandemic, the plan is to proceed with the assumption that the June 2021 sessions will provide an opportunity for Parties to work on the budget, pending a decision by the Bureau on the working modalities for the sessions.

Parties will have to use time effectively and efficiently to allow the secretariat to circulate letters with indicative core contributions for 2022 by September so that governments can take them into consideration when preparing national budgets for 2022. The secretariat will provide support to those Parties who need it to ensure that any engagements on the budget are fully transparent and inclusive.

Slide 20 of the presentation provides a tentative schedule of the approval process for the 2022-2023 budget.

# V. Budget contributions and scale of assessments

23. <u>Question</u>: Could the secretariat provide an updated list of the status of contributions, including an overview of each Parties' contributions?

#### Response from the secretariat:

The status of contributions is available on the **UNFCCC** budget webpage (see box on the upper right) and is updated on a monthly basis. The last version provided is the <u>status</u> as at 28 February 2021.

<u>Core Contribution</u>: As at 24 March 2021, EUR 12 million have been received for 2021 contributions from 73 Parties. EUR 31.5 million remain outstanding for current and prior years from 134 Parties.

A list of the countries who paid their core contribution for 2021 can be found here.

<u>Voluntary Contribution</u>: As at 24 March 2021, EUR 22.5 million have been received in the biennium for Supplementary Activities which represents 38% of the total biennium requirement of EUR 58.9 million.

The secretariat will be sending the 2021 fundraising letters in the coming weeks.

24. <u>Question</u>: Could the secretariat provide an explanation on how the UNFCCC webpages on contribution map onto the budget figures? For example, the contributions page for 2020 shows funding needs of EUR 94m and contributions of EUR 32.93m, whereas the budgets are consistently EUR ~170m, which is similar for this year's contributions page.

# Response from the secretariat:

The contribution pages on the UNFCCC website only show the requirements for three funds: Core, Supplementary and Participation. The budget includes all funds including ITL, CDM, etc., but not all funds require contributions in the same way as Core and Supplementary.

25. <u>Question</u>: The reporting on contributions online has changed for 2020. As of September 2020, voluntary contributions were 47%, they are now 20.2%, is this a result of changing the reporting from calendar to financial year?

# Response from the secretariat:

The reporting on contributions online shows the supplementary resource requirements as per COP 25 decision on the programme budget for the biennium 2020-2021, additional requirements arising from COP 25 decisions and voluntary contributions received for the biennium.

# 26. Questions:

- a) Would the UN Scale of Assessment be adjusted, and, if yes, does the secretariat have the adjusted scale already?
- b) Assuming that, the UNFCCC will not increase its budget for 2022-2023: Will the fees remain the same? What will this depend on? Despite this increase, will the contributions and budget remain the same, or is it expected to have voluntary grants from the additional Parties?

# Response from the secretariat:

The UN scale of assessments is updated every three years. The last update was adopted in December 2018 and the next is expected for December 2021, which means that it will not yet be available when the UNFCCC budget is approved at COP 26 in Glasgow.

Therefore, COP 26 and CMP 16 will be expected to approve the UNFCCC scales on the basis of the UN scale currently in place. The scales for 2022-2023 would be the same as for 2020-2021. In a ZNG scenario, this would mean the same level of contributions from each Party.

At the same time, COP 26 and CMP 16 will be expected to request the secretariat to prepare in 2022 revised scales for consideration and adoption by COP 27 and CMP 17. For 2022, the revised scales would be applied retroactively. In a ZNG scenario, some Parties would be expected to pay a higher contribution than in the current biennium and others a lower one, depending on the updated assessments by the United Nations.

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